

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A sound absorbing article, comprising:

(i) ~~a material-fabric material of between about 0.4 and about 7 mm in thickness, which is pervious to air, and which is said material being pervious to air, and~~ characterized by proximal and distal surfaces with respect to a sound source, an internal structure, and a specific weight; and

(ii) ~~a water-glass coating, which is applied in a controlled manner and which adheres to said surfaces and internal structure, increasing said specific weight by a controlled, predetermined factor, said factor being less than 7 between about 1.1 and about 4, so as to maintain a perviousness to said material, while providing said sound absorbing article with an NRC (Noise reduction Coefficient) value of at least 0.80.~~

2. (Original) The sound absorbing article of claim 1, wherein said material is a fibrous material.

3. (Original) The sound absorbing article of claim 2, wherein said fibrous material is formed of natural fibers.

4. (Original) The sound absorbing article of claim 2, wherein said fibrous material is formed of natural fibers, selected from the group consisting of wool, linen, cotton, canvas, cannabis, reed, weed, straw, stalks, seaweed, and a blend thereof.

5. (Original) The sound absorbing article of claim 2, wherein said fibrous material is formed of fibers derived from cellular materials.

6. (Original) The sound absorbing article of claim 2, wherein said fibrous material is formed of fibers derived from cellular materials selected from the group consisting of Rayon, Viscosa, and a blend thereof.

7. (Original) The sound absorbing article of claim 2, wherein said fibrous material is formed of fibers derived from cellular materials, selected from the group

consisting of recycled paper, recycled organic waste, recycled cellular fiber, and mixtures thereof.

8-14. (Canceled)

15. (Original) The sound absorbing article of claim 2, wherein said fibrous material is nonwoven.

16-30. (Canceled)

31. (Original) The sound absorbing article of claim 1 and further comprising a flame-retardant agent mixed into a liquid adhesive that forms said coating.

32. (Original) The sound absorbing article of claim 31, wherein said flame-retardant agent is selected from the group consisting of alumina trihydrate, zinc borate, hexabromocyclododecane, decabromodiphenyl oxide, magnesium hydroxide, ammonium polyphosphates, phosphoric acid, and tetrakis hydroxymethyl phosphonium chloride.

33. (Original) The sound absorbing article of claim 31, wherein said flame-retardant agent is water soluble.

34. (Original) The sound absorbing article of claim 31, wherein said flame-retardant agent is soluble in a liquid adhesive with which it is mixed, to form said coating.

35. (Original) The sound absorbing article of claim 31, wherein said flame-retardant agent forms between 10 % and 90 % by weight of said coating.

36. (Original) The sound absorbing article of claim 31, wherein said flame-retardant agent forms between 30 % and 70 % by weight of said coating.

37. (Original) The sound absorbing article of claim 1, wherein said coating increases said specific weight by a factor between 1.1 and 2.

38. (Original) The sound absorbing article of claim 1, wherein said coating increases said specific weight by a factor between 2 and 3.

39. (Original) The sound absorbing article of claim 1, wherein said coating increases said specific weight by a factor between 3 and 4.

40-99. (Canceled)

100. (New) The sound absorbing article of claim 1, having an NRC values of at least 0.85.

101. (New) A sound absorbing wall, comprising:
a wall structure, which defines a wall area; and
a sound absorbing article, arranged against said wall area and comprising:

(i) a fabric material of between about 0.4 and about 7 mm in thickness, said material being pervious to air, and characterized by proximal and distal surfaces with respect to a sound source, an internal structure, and a specific weight; and

(ii) a water-glass coating, which is applied in a controlled manner and which adheres to said surfaces and internal structure, increasing said specific weight by a controlled, predetermined factor, said factor being between about 1.1 and about 4, so as to maintain a perviousness to said material, while providing said sound absorbing article with an NRC (Noise reduction Coefficient) value of at least 0.80, thus forming said sound-absorbing wall.

102. (New) A sound absorbing ceiling, comprising:
a ceiling structure, which defines a ceiling area; and
a sound absorbing article, arranged against said ceiling area and comprising:

(i) a fabric material of between about 0.4 and about 7 mm in thickness, said material being pervious to air, and characterized by proximal and distal surfaces with respect to a sound source, an internal structure, and a specific weight; and

(ii) a water-glass coating, which is applied in a controlled manner and which adheres to said surfaces and internal structure, increasing said specific weight by a controlled, predetermined factor, said factor being between about 1.1 and about 4, so as to maintain a pervousness to said material, while providing said sound absorbing article with an NRC (Noise reduction Coefficient) value of at least 0.80, thus forming said sound-absorbing ceiling.